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DOE-RL / DIS

May 21, 1999

Mr. Thomas Ferns
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550, MSIN HO-12
Richland, WA 99352-0550

Dear Mr. Ferns:

I am writing in support of the DOE Preferred Alternative identified in the Revised Draft Hanford Remedial EIS and Comprehensive Land Use Plan. I strongly feel the Wahluke Slope, as well as all of the undeveloped land on the Hanford Reach, is a national treasure and must be protected from development and commercial uses. There are no other areas in the Pacific Northwest that offer the kind of opportunities for the study of native plant and animal systems at lower elevations as exist on these areas. This is truly a unique area and this country does not need more grazing areas for cows.

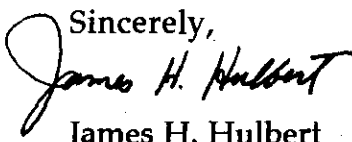
Please consider placing much of the area into the National Wildlife Refuge system, especially the Wahluke Slope, the Hanford Reach, the islands, the McGee Ranch and the Arid Lands Ecology Reserve. I also urge you to issue a Record of Decision for these areas separate from that of the cleanup of the central Hanford area.

The Federal Government is the only governmental entity with a long term management outlook for these kinds of resources. All people in our country have a stake in these lands. Generally, local governments are influenced by a select few individuals with short term, profit motives.

I speak as a professional forester with 32 years experience with the USDA Forest Service in various locations throughout the U.S.

Thank you for considering my, and my family's interests.

Sincerely,



James H. Hulbert